



Old Hill Primary School & Nursery

Headteacher: Mrs S A Fenby | Business Manager: Mrs K Raybould
Lawrence Lane | Cradley Heath | West Midlands | B64 6DR
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20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you are all well and keeping your spirits up at this difficult time.

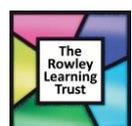
School will be closed from 3.15pm this afternoon. It will be open from Monday for children on the Government Key workers' list and for vulnerable children. I have contacted all the families of children considered vulnerable personally. There is a link to the Government Key Workers List on the school website. If you are on the list, there is a form to be completed available from school or on the school website. Key Workers children can only attend school once they have returned a completed Key Workers form to school for verification. We have sent a text message out this morning asking all families who need to send their children to school on Monday 23rd March to return a completed form by 3.15pm today. If you did not receive this text, please contact the school office to ensure we have the correct phone numbers. This is really important as this is the quickest way for us to contact you with important information.

Can I please stress that this service should only be used to provide critical childcare and you should only use this as a last resort. Children who receive this service will not be receiving their normal curriculum delivery, this is emergency child care only. Apart from hospitals, schools are now the only place where large groups gather. This obviously brings an increased risk to all concerned, so I would like to stress that this is emergency childcare only, if there is someone at home who can look after the children, they should do so, this will minimise the risk to everyone. We need to ensure that all our staff and children are protected wherever possible, so that we can continue to provide this vital emergency service for those eligible. We also appreciate that whilst some keyworkers do not need this service now, they may do so further down the line and we will be flexible with this. Please keep in touch by telephone or via the office email.

The government guidance makes it clear that **'every child who can be safely cared for at home, should be'**. Please ensure you know where your child is at all times and observe the guidance around social distancing and washing hands frequently and thoroughly, children have been taught how to do this. This is the key to ensure that the spread of this **deadly virus is minimised**. If anyone in the household becomes ill with symptoms of the virus you must follow the protocols for self-isolating, seeking medical support as necessary.

Children Coming to School

- Breakfast Club is running as normal, please pay through Parent Pay. Breakfast Club consent and contact detail forms are available from Reception. Children cannot attend unless this form is completed. The Charge is £3.00 per day payable through Parent Pay.





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- We are now operating a childcare service; so the children will not be educated in school as they normally are.
- We do not expect children to wear school uniform. Sensible and practical and comfortable clothes, (especially sensible shoes for the girls). I hope this makes things easier for you.
- School meals will run and be paid for as normal. Children who are attending school, who are entitled to free school meals (FSM) will get their meal as normal, that includes children whose parents qualify for FSM and the children in Reception and years 1, 2 and 3 who are entitled to 'Universal Free School Meals'.
- As a result of difficulties with the supply chain, the school meal on **Monday 23rd** March 2020 will be a sandwich, with crisps, fruit, drink and biscuit, from Tuesday 31st March, school will provide hot meals as normal. Children on Free School Meals and the Universal Free School Meals in Reception and classes 1, 2 & 3, will receive their lunch.
- **Free School Meals** for families who choose not to send their children to school or who are self-isolating can collect a 'Grab Bag' with sandwich, with crisps, fruit, drink and biscuit. These can be collected from School from 12pm onwards. Please order from the office the day before. If you are self-isolating and cannot leave the house, please inform school and we will make arrangements to deliver.
(Free School Meals means children whose parent/carer is on Income Support but not Working Tax Credit, not the universal free school meals available to all pupils in Reception and classes 1, 2, & 3)
- In order to support our catering supplier SIPs school are getting the 'Grab bags' from SIPs rather than taking part in the Government scheme, where families are given a voucher from school and collect the grab bags from a nominated supermarket.

Thank you for working with us at this exceptionally hard time. As staff, we have been overwhelmed with the support from the community. We will get through this if we are all willing to help and support each other.

Take care of each other and keep well.

S Fenby
Headteacher

